27 26
~~25~~. An interface system as defined in claim ~~24~~ wherein said cellular wireless network has a plurality of cells, each having a base station for providing wireless communications to NIUs within each cell and for providing a point to point inter-cell radio link with other base stations within the network..

28 27
~~26~~. An interface system as defined in claim ~~25~~ wherein one of the base stations is controlled by a network manager to provide configuration parameters for each of said first one or more and said second one or more interface cards in each of the multi-services switch in each base station.

29 28
~~27~~. An interface system as defined in claim ~~26~~ wherein the cellular wireless network is connected to an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

30 26
~~28~~. An interface system as defined in claim ~~24~~ wherein each cell is sub-divided into sectors and each base station has a sectored antenna for communicating with NIUs located in each sector within the cell.

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~~29~~. An interface system as defined in claim ~~28~~ wherein each of said first one or more interface cards and each of said second one or more interface cards communicates with said sectored antenna via one or more combiners.

32 27
~~30~~. An interface system as define in claim ~~25~~ wherein said inter-cell radio link between respective base stations is in a ring configuration.

33 27
~~31~~. An interface system as defined in claim ~~25~~ wherein said inter-cell radio link between respective base stations is in a mesh configuration.

34
~~32~~. A base station in a cell of a cellular, wireless communications network for providing wireless, bi-directional communication with network interface units (NIUs) within the cell and for providing a point to point inter-cell radio link with a base station in a neighboring cell, the base station having a multi-services switch equipped with a first radio interface card for providing the wireless, bi-directional communication between the base

station and the NIUs and a second interface card for providing the point to point radio inter-cell link.

35. A base station as defined in claim 34, wherein said cell is sub-divided into multiple sectors and said multi-services switch is equipped with a first radio interface card for each sector.

36. A base station as defined in claim 35 connected to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode backbone for providing broadband wireless service to said NIUs.

37. A base station as defined in claim 36 connected to a network manager for receiving configuration parameters respecting said first and second radio interface cards.

38. A base station as defined in claim 37 wherein said configuration parameters include; operating frequencies, modulation rates, forward error correction values, and transmission power levels.

39. A base station as defined in claim 35 wherein said second interface card is equipped to provide point to point, bi-directional radio communication with base stations in neighboring cells over said radio inter-cell link.

40. A base station as defined in claim 39 wherein said radio inter-cell link is in a ring configuration.

41. A base station as defined in claim 39 wherein said radio, inter-cell link is in a mesh configuration.

42. A method of providing communications between base stations in a cellular, wireless network having multiple cells, each of the multiple cells having a base station, the method comprising providing a multi-services switch at each of the base stations, each switch being equipped with a radio interface card for providing bi-directional communication with other base stations in the network; providing a network manager in association with at least one of the base stations for configuring the radio interface cards, and providing a